

Appl. No. 10/658,571
Amdt. Dated May 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2004

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner for acknowledging receipt of foreign priority document, Japanese Application No. JP2002-269406, that has been submitted pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119 and/or PCT Rule 17.2(a).

Claims 9 and 10 have been added in order to specify alternate subject matter as disclosed in the specification.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference of *Taniguchi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,228). The *Taniguchi* reference is directed to "a thin-film EL device adapted to display multiple colors and having a sealing plate which can be fixed to a substrate without affecting picture element with adhesive squeezed out." (Column 1, line 65 - Column 2, line 2). *Taniguchi*, however, actually teaches away from Applicants' currently claimed invention.

Taniguchi describes a structure wherein no resin whatsoever is provided above the display region. The adhesive 52 used in *Taniguchi* is thus formed outside of the light-emitting region exclusively, and the relief pattern 53 therefore does not prevent the adhesive from flowing outward over the electrode region.

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Applicants' invention, on the other hand, is directed to a device wherein a sealing resin is formed over the entire light-emitting area in order to further seal the OLEDs from elements such as moisture and oxygen that could degrade the device and reduce device reliability. However, there has been a problem in the art that the sealing resin disposed over the light-emitting region will, when squeezed between the sealing substrate and the panel substrate, leak out over the electrodes 4, causing device degradation, as shown in Fig. 6C of Applicants' disclosure.

Applicants have solved this problem by forming a relief in the sealing substrate outside of the OLED light-emitting region in order to capture and prevent sealing resin 2 from leaking out and causing degradation of the electrodes 4. *Taniguchi* fails to teach or suggest such a device.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.


The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1794.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date:

5/2/05


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